

In Nomine Jesu

The Letter of Concord

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Congregations of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, the precious Body of Christ,
selected brothers and sisters in the Faith

Beloved of the Lord;

We are receiving letters concerning issues in the LCMS. What saddens me, and I hope many others, is there is nothing about love, reconciliation, the Gospel, in them. They set forth positions for regulations and promote people to direct the organization to bring about their desired future, all Law. Luther taught organization was the left hand of God, secondary to the proper purpose of the Church, the Gospel, reconciliation with God and with man. All organizations need organization.

For a very long time the LCMS has been mired in struggles. With elections and By-Laws, parties strive for control. When the wrong parties won, the Dispute Reconciliation Process was adopted, other groups formed, so the correct rulings would be dependably made in secrecy, unrecorded.

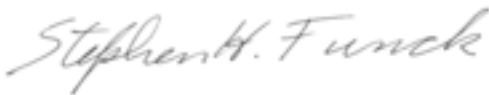
The Gospel of reconciliation is clearly seen in the way the enemy is treated. The LCMS speaks Gospel outside but does not seek reconciliation with those inside the brotherhood. That practice spills over into the congregations.. We fool ourselves saying our declining numbers are due to the age, as we lose members to growing churches. "Pure Gospel" without action drives people to where "good enough Gospel" is lived. "You know the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them,. . . It shall not be so among you" Mt 20:25. I have heard high officials style themselves as Pastors to Pastors, but too many pastors and teachers have been driven away.

What to do? First and most important: stop being conceited about the LCMS. We are terrible, flawed. Is our rejection of Gospel action to the brother we see less offensive than goofy theology or sloppy love for erring? Would the Lord of the Church prefer a Pope, a woman minister, who live the Gospel, over the LCMS, deaf to repentance, confession, amendment of harms? The goats on the left in Mt. 25 thought they were saved believers.

Challenge the leaders on "your side" to repent, seek to personally love those they oppose, dialog, compromise, be leaders of the Gospel. Refuse to support warring politicians. If they win the battle. they still lose the spiritual warfare. Since when have we seen someone leading in the LCMS in the Spirit of Christian love? Pass this on to others, send me names for the mailing list. Many other items are on the Web site.

May the Lord of the Church pour out upon us His Spirit of Wisdom, discernment, courage, compassion for the hurt and lost, obedience and zeal. May our lives bring Him glory. "We will all stand before the judgment seat of God. Let us . . . resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another. Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual up building." Rom. 14.

In the name of one called by God to proclaim His Love for all,



Stephen H. Funck

Ezekiel. 3:16ff



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Soli Deo Gloria

He died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves,
but for him who died and was raised for them. 2 Cor. 5:15